

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WCIWY - U.S. STATEMENT TO COMMITTEE I.

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT BY JILL RUCKELSHAUS, REPRESENTATIVE ON THE USDEL TO COMMITTEE I OF THE WCIWY: BEGIN QUOTE MY DELEGATION CONSIDERS THAT THE PROPOSED WORLD PLAN OF ACTION PROVIDES A GOOD BASIS FOR DISCUSSION IN THIS COMMITTEE. IN OUR VIEW, IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH MET IN MARCH 1975. THE UNITED STATES WILL, OF COURSE, OFFER SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SUBSTANTIVE PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN, MANY OF WHICH REFLECT IDEAS CONTAINED IN THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT. FOR NOW, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES WILL ADDRESS ITSELF PRIMARILY TO THE STRUCTURE OF THE PLAN.

2. FIRST, THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE THREE GOALS OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THROUGHOUT THE PLAN. THE QUEST OF WOMEN FOR EQUALITY AND THAT OF ALL PERSONS FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE INEXTRICABLY INTERRELATED. THESE GOALS MUST BE SIMULTANEOUSLY PURSUED. EQUALITY WITHOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT OFTEN MEANS SHARED MISERY AND FRUSTRATION, WHILE

DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT EQUALITY WILL INEVITABLY OPERATE TO THE DETERIMENT AND AT THE EXPENSE OF WOMEN RATHER THAN TO THEIR BENEFIT.

3. SECOND, IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION IS ADDRESSED TO WOMEN'S PROBLEMS, AND FOR THAT REASON, IT IS APPROPRIATE TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES NOT ONLY FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS BUT ALSO FOR WOMEN THEMSELVES. THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD MUST NOT PASSIVELY WAIT FOR OTHERS TO GRANT THEM RIGHTS WHICH ARE INHERENTLY THEIRS. WOMEN MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO OVERCOME AND CHANGE ATTITUDES, CUSTOMS AND LAWS WHICH HAVE DENIED THEM THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. THIRD, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION MUST PROVIDE FOR WOMEN AND MEN A CHOICE OF SOCIAL ROLES NOT LIMITED BY TRADITIONAL SEX STEREOTYPES.

5. FOURTH, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO COMMIT THEIR RESOLVE AND RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY FOR WOMEN WITH MEN AND TO FULLY INTEGRATE WOMEN INTO THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS MUST BE REVIEWED AND ALTERED TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN AND MEN ARE TREATED EQUALLY. LEGISLATION CAN MANDATE CHANGES IN BEHAVIOR WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY LEAD TO CHANGES IN ATTITUDES.

6. WOMEN MUST PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH MEN IN THE AFFAIRS OF GOVERNMENT. THEIR PRESENCE ON DECISIONMAKING BODIES WHICH FORM POLICY FOR THE SOCIETIES IN WHICH WE LIVE IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE. WOMEN MUST BE EQUALLY INVOLVED IN GOVERNMENT BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY IF EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND A LASTING AND JUST PEACE ARE TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

7. ADEQUATE DATA COLLECTION, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN AS IT RELATES TO THAT OF MEN, IS A PREREQUISITE TO INFORMED CHANGE. THE U.S. URGES THAT EACH NATION CONSIDER THE GOALS OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF (1) THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE PLANNING PROCESS, AND (2) THE IMPACT UPON THE LIVES OF ALL WOMEN MADE BY SUCH PROGRAMS.

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8. AS A MEANS OF TRANSLATING THE PLAN INTO ACTION, THE UNITED STATES COMMENDS THE SUGGESTION THAT THE DECADE OF 1975-1985 BE DEDICATED TO THE INTERTWINED GOALS OF GULL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN AND DEVELOPMENT.

9. FINALLY, SO THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS, GOVERNMENTS, AND PEOPLE WILL BE AWARE OF THE FIRM COMMITMENT OF THE CONFERENCE

TO THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE PLAN, THE UNITED STATES SUGGESTS THAT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM GIVE EFFECT TO THE PLAN OF ACTION IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE U.S. SUGGESTS THAT AMONG OTHER POSSIBLE ACTIONS, THAT MEMBER STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS MUST SUBMIT PERIODIC REPORTS TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON THE MEASURES THEY HAVE TAKEN TO CRRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN.

10. WE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE COMMITTED TO PURSUIT OF THE COMBINED IWY GOAL OF EQUALITY AND DEVELOPMENT, ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT ACHIEVING THIS LONG-RUN IMPLIES, FOR US AS NO DOUBT FOR OTHERS, MODIFICATIONS IN MANY EXISTING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE SUPPORT THE U.S. EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT THE FULL DEVELOPMENT OF THE POTENTITALS OF WOMEN EQUALLY WITH MEN AND THEIR SHARING OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO CREATE MORE JUST AND EQUITABLE SOCIETIES." END QUOTE
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